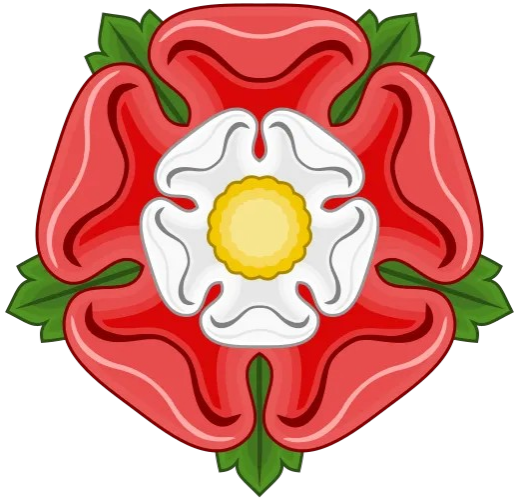


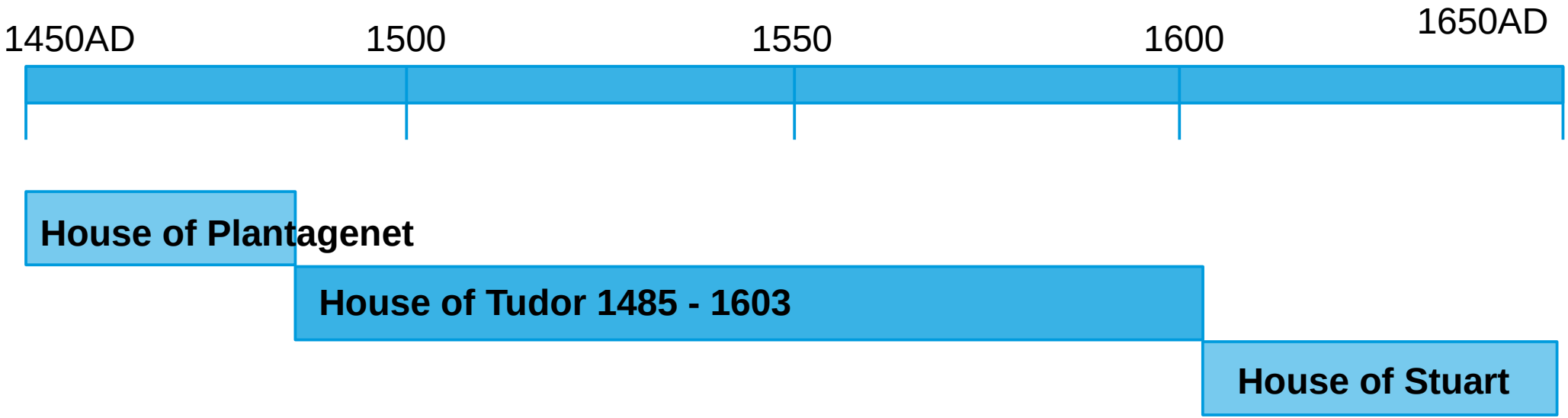
Tudor England

A Euramerican National Assembly Presentation

- **Background**
- **Kings and Queens of the House of Tudor**
- **Legacy of the Tudor Era on America**

Background

British Royal Houses Timeline



Background

House of Tudor

- Followed the War of Roses (1455 to 1487)
- Dynasty of Five Kings and Queens
- Of English and Welsh Origin

Background

Kings and Queens of the House of Tudor

- Henry VII – 1485 – 1509
- Henry VIII – 1509 – 1547
- Edward VI – 1547 – 1553
- Mary I – 1553 – 1558
- Elizabeth I – 1558 - 1603

Background

Importance of the House of Tudor

- Saw the creation of a strong, centralized Nation-State
- Redefined Monarchy and the relationship between Church and State
- Oversaw or participated in the switch from a Catholic society to a Protestant society

Background

Importance of the House of Tudor

- Saw the Birth of English Naval Supremacy and Global Ambitions
- Oversaw the transition from a Post-Feudal society to a Market-Based Society
- The Forging of a Distinct English Nationality and Cultural Identity
- Established the Tensions that gave rise to the North American Colonization

Kings and Queens of the House of Tudor

Kings and Queens

Henry VII

- aka Henry Tudor
- Healer of a broken kingdom (married Elizabeth of York)
- Ended the War of the Roses
- Fixed financial problems of the realm
- By crushing the powerful nobles and creating efficient centralized government, he established the authority of the modern nation-state

Kings and Queens

Henry VII

- Sowed the seeds of the United Kingdom
- Married his daughter Margaret Tudor to King James IV of Scotland.
- Leads to Eventual unification of England and Scotland under the British Crown
- His Son Henry VIII succeeded him in 1509

Kings and Queens

Henry VIII

- Started the English Reformation, breaking with Roman Catholic Church
- Dissolved the Monasteries, selling off their land. ¼ of all cultivated land.
- Expanded the Power of State and Parliament
- Created more formal, bureaucratic state
- Established the Royal Navy

Kings and Queens

Henry VIII ….

- **A nation of enduring religious division** – break with Rome, establishment of Church of England, increased Catholic-Protestant tensions.
- **A new social and economic order**
  - land sold to gentry and nobility, looyal to the crown
  - Finalized transition from Feudal to Market-based society
- **An Imperial Monarch –** Church and State unified
- **A Maritime World Power in the Making**

Kings and Queens

Edward VI (1537- 1553)

- Ascension 1547 (aged 10)
- Died 1553 (aged 15)
- Shift to Doctrinal Protestantism
- Creation of *Book of Common Prayer*
- *Provoked widespread Social and Religious Unrest*

Kings and Queens

Edward VI (1537- 1553)

- **Prayer Book Rebellion** of 1549 brutally crushed
- **Succession Crisis** – worked to disallow his Catholic half-sister Mary from succeeding him.
- **Fueled the Catholic Counter-Reformation** – hardened division
- **Anglicanism** - But, established doctrinal foundation of Anglicanism

Kings and Queens

Mary Ist (1537- 1558)

- **Established Precedent of Queenship**
- **Catholic Restoration**
  - She had Parliament repeal all of the Protestant legislation of Edward VI's reign.
  - She methodically restored the Catholic Mass and re-established the old holy days.
  - She formally reconciled England with the Papacy,

Kings and Queens

Mary Ist (1537- 1558)

- **Marian Persecutions**
  - Revived Heresy laws
  - Burned 300 Protestants at the Stake
  - Tried to terrorize the Protestant minority into submission
- **Spanish Marriage**
  - Prince Philip II of Spain
  - To secure a Catholic succession

Kings and Queens

Mary Ist (1537- 1558)

- **Unintentionally Secured the Protestant Reformation**
  - Big backlash
- **Created "Marian Exiles"**
  - 800 protestants fled England for the continent
  - Introduced to Calvinism which they brought back after her death
  - These returnees became the **"Puritans"**
- **Created backlash from France** – loss of Calais in 1558

Kings and Queens

Elizabeth Ist (1558- 1603)

- **Settled Religious Tensions**
  - **Act of Supremacy (1559) –** strengthened break with Rome. But, by concession of title.
  - **Act of Uniformity (1559) –** restored the *Book of Common Prayer* but allowed others as well.

Kings and Queens

Elizabeth Ist (1558- 1603)

- Defeated the Spanish Armada
  - Pedro de Valdes surrendered to Francis Drake
  - Massive Propaganda Victory
  - She was seen as a divinely protected savior of England.
- Guaranteed English Independence

Kings and Queens

Elizabeth Ist (1558- 1603)

- Survived the Threat of Mary, Queen of Scotts
  - Catholics saw Mary Queen of Scots as the legitimate Queen.
  - She Imprisoned Marry Queen of Scots
  - Signed her Death Warrant after political maneuvering
  - Executed Mary in 1587

Kings and Queens

Elizabeth Ist (1558- 1603)

- **Loved because of her victories**
- **Seen as divinely inspired**
- **Cultivated the “Gloriana” and “Virgin Queen” Persona**

Kings and Queens

- The Tudors inherited a kingdom torn apart by civil war.
- They left a nation that was stable, centralized, and more powerful.
- Their story is one of crisis, ambition, and transformation.
- The Tudors successfully curbed the power of the old nobility.
- They created a more efficient and modern government bureaucracy.
- They worked with Parliament to pass their laws, increasing its importance.

Legacy of the House of Tudor for America

Legacy of the House of Tudor for America

Legacy: A Strong Central Government

- The Tudors successfully curbed the power of the old nobility.
- They created a more efficient and modern government bureaucracy.
- They worked with Parliament to pass their laws, increasing its importance.

Legacy of the House of Tudor for America

Legacy: A New National Identity

- The English Reformation gave England a unique religious identity, separate from Catholic Europe.
- The Church of England became a central part of English life.
- The defeat of the Spanish Armada fueled a new sense of national pride and patriotism.

Legacy of the House of Tudor for America

Legacy: Rise of Naval Power

- Henry VIII is often called the “Father of the Royal Navy” for his investment in ships.
- Elizabeth’s victory over the Armada set the stage for England’s future as a dominant sea power.
- This naval strength was the key to building the British Empire.

Legacy of the House of Tudor for America

Legacy: A Cultural Renaissance

- The stability of the Tudor era allowed for an explosion of culture.
- William Shakespeare, the greatest writer in the English language, defined the age.
- The English language itself flourished and developed during this period.

Legacy of the House of Tudor for America

Rise of a New Religiosity

The Tudor dynasty's chaotic religious policy was the direct cause of the Puritan’s and Pilgrim's formative colonial movements.

Legacy of the House of Tudor for America

Rise of a New Religiosity

- **Henry** created a separate church.
- **Edward** showed the radicals what that church **could** look like.
- **Mary** persecuted them, hardening their resolve and exposing them to even more radical ideas in exile.
- **Elizabeth** implemented a compromise that was unacceptable to them, giving them a mission: to purify or separate.

Legacy of the House of Tudor for America

The Puritans and Pilgrims were not seeking something new in America; they were trying to re-establish the "pure" church they felt had been promised and then denied during the Tudor Reformation. They carried the unresolved religious conflicts of 16th-century England across the Atlantic, where those conflicts would shape the character of the American colonies and the future of the United States.

Legacy of the House of Tudor for America

The colonists who sailed to America did not arrive as blank slates; they brought with them a distinct set of political and legal expectations inherited from the Tudor era.

- The Role of Parliament: While the Tudors were powerful autocrats, they shrewdly used Parliament to legitimize their most radical actions, such as the Reformation. This gave Parliament a new level of importance and precedent. The colonists brought this tradition with them, establishing colonial assemblies (like Virginia's House of Burgesses) almost immediately, expecting to have a say in their own governance.

Legacy of the House of Tudor for America

- English Common Law: The Tudor period saw the continued development and centralization of the English Common Law system. Colonists saw themselves as bearers of these "Rights of Englishmen," which included concepts like trial by jury and certain property rights. The later revolutionary cry of "No taxation without representation" was a direct appeal to these inherited political traditions.

Legacy of the House of Tudor for America

In summary, the legacy of the Tudor dynasty on the American colonies was profound and foundational. The Tudors created:

- The **religious dissenters** who would seek freedom in New England.
- The **naval power** that made crossing the Atlantic feasible.
- The **landless population** willing to risk everything for a new start.
- The **political traditions** that would shape colonial governments and eventually fuel a revolution.

Questions?